(b) if so, the nature and reasons for this scrutiny;

(c) whether it is also a fact that increasing number of accidents has caused worry all over the country; and

(d) the steps proposed to reduce accidents and improve functioning of the ailways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dose not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents has decreased consistently from 415 in 2001-02 to 177 in 2008-09. In the current year also, during April to 30th November 2009, the number of consequential train accidents decreased to 102 from 177 during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible measures are being taken to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of consequential train accidents as stated above.

Plan for mobilization of financial resources

1819. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's plan for financial resource mobilization by using surplus railways land includes use of such lands for creating industrial and manufacturing facilities in consultation with State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have planned to utilise its vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage and Perishable Cargo Centres, etc. Consultation with State Governments is done wherever required.

Utilization of surplus railway land

1820. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to utilize surplus railway land for mobilizing additional financial resources;

(b) if so, the details and financial projections thereof;

(c) the details of surplus railway land available, State-wise and location-wise;

(d) the reasons for such land becoming surplus; and

(e) since how long such land remained idle and whether Government had earlier tried to put them to any productive use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) Indian Railways have approx 10.65 lakh acre of land. About 90% of this land is under Railway's operational and allied usages. The total vacant land, at present, is about 1.13 lakh acre.

In order to mobilise additional financial resources, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been set up by Railways through the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2005 to undertake commercial development of that vacant railway land and air-space which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. So far 133 sites of such vacant land measuring 3744 acre have been entrusted to RLDA on various Zonal Railways for commercial development. RLDA has taken up studies for ascertaining revenue potential of these sites. Railways have also planned to utilise its 1.13 lakh acre vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail Coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage and Perishable Cargo Centres, and others through innovative financing models in order to earn more revenue for the railways, create additional railway infrastructure, and also generate employment opportunities.

Incidents of deaths due to run over by trains

1821. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether within first week of November, 2009 only there were five incidents of run over by trains leading to death of nineteen persons including railway men on duty;

(b) if so, the details of the same, date and location-wise;

(c) whether enquiry committees have been constituted to investigate the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) During the first week of November, 2009, 99 incidents of run over were reported over Indian Railways in which 122 persons died. Out of these 99 incidents, 3 major incidents were reported from Northern Railway causing death of 11 Railway employees and 6 others. The brief details of these incidents are as under:-

(i) On 03.11.2009, six persons were run over by Train No. 2015 (Ajmer Shatabdi Express) near Pataudi Railway Station in Delhi-Rewari section.

(ii) On 03.11.2009, six gangmen were run over by EMU Train No. NP6 between Asaoti and Palwal Railway Stations in New Delhi-Agra section.